



Community Values That will guide harbor development

June 17, 2008

Derived from five community discussions held the first two weeks of June, 2008

The working waterfront is what makes us real... Peter Anastas

Gloucester has fed the world... Melissa Hobbs

Chart course with relationship to sea... Henry Ferrini

Walk the waterfront... Mary Grazen-Browne

Our community speaks of the need for change on the waterfront, of restoring the port as the center of activity for its citizens.

There is a sense that while our fishing industry will always define Gloucester, a changing economy requires diversification and evolution of economic activity in the port.

People overwhelmingly support public access along the waterfront, noting the inaccessibility of the harbor to its citizens, especially its youth.

Citizens support greater public use of the water itself, including the mixes of recreational and commercial boating.

The community wants the change that they advocate to respect the character and heritage of the city.

There is wide-spread belief that the complex regulatory environment has stifled harbor development.

Many in the community travel the world over, and testify that this harbor is perhaps the most beautiful harbor in the world. Citizens want a harbor that is once again the center of civic pride.

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Make the Harbor a hub of economic activity. Be flexible while respecting the working character of the port.

- Support the fishing industry and adding value shore-side to the catch.
- Support mixed industrial and commercial uses that provide year round jobs on the waterfront.
- Create flexibility that promotes investment in harbor properties.
- Make Gloucester a welcoming port for the transient boating community. Provide the required complete range of services.
- Encourage uses that rely upon water access.
- Support family owned and operated businesses.
- Proactively seek new marine related industries and research centers to locate in the harbor.
- Create linkages to educational institutions.
- Provide direction for Gloucester's economic development based on evolving world realities.
- Integrate water shuttles and water taxis into the harbor economy.
- The creative economy is a legitimate supporting commercial use for the working waterfront.

Make the Harbor a hub of community activity. Provide access to, along, and across the water.

- Create public access along the waterfront as shown by harbor walks and connections.
- Provide ways that citizens, especially our youth, can both get to and onto the water.
- Increase citizen access to boating: increase moorings, dinghy docks.
- Mix recreational and commercial boating in ways that would create compatible boating activity in the harbor.
- Encourage access by water with abundant temporary public slips.

Ensure that harbor development respects the heritage of Gloucester: fishing, arts, the scale of the community, preservation.

- Develop effective design and architectural review.
- Make the harbor accessible to the public.
- Consider traffic and parking needs.
- Recognize and link historic focal points.

Approach harbor development recognizing that

- We want and need investment in our harbor.
- Clarify the complex regulatory and permitting environment.
- Make bureaucracies accountable to realistic permitting timeframes.
- Use caution so as not to lose our character.
- Diverse uses provide added economic stability.
- Maintain a balance between development and preservation.